

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

RSR-01 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 GAC-01 /118 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 624

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7062

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-23 APRIL 1973

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 0086

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 23 APRIL 1973

REF: SAIGON 6756

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL APRIL 20-22, WITH 8, 17, AND 18 CONTACTS BEING REPORTED FOR THOSE THREE DAYS. THE RANGER BATTALION AT TON LE CHAM CONTINUED UNDER SIEGE, TAKING A TOTAL OF 300 ROCKET AND MORTAR ROUNDS OVER THE THREE DAY PERIOD, WHILE SUFFERING NO CASUALTIES. THE NVA CONTINUED TO USE LOUDSPEAKERS TO URGE THE RANGERS TO DESERT. NVA UNITS RENEWED THEIR PRESSURE NORTHWEST OF THE PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CAPITAL, HITTING A RANGER BATTALION WITH A GROUND ATTACK ON APRIL 20, AND 50 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE RANGERS REPORTED NO CASUALTIES. ON APRIL 21, A BATTALION OF THE ARVN 25 TH DIVISION LOCATED 16 KM NORTHWEST OF GO DAU HA, TAY NINH PROVINCE, WAS ATTACKED BY AN UNKNOWN SIZED VC/ NVA FORCE, RESULTING IN THREE ARVN KILLED AND
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10 WOUNDED. VC/ NVA CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN. ELSEWHERE IN MR 3, VC/ NVA GROUND ATTACKS WERE REPORTED IN TAY NINH, HAU NGHIA, LONG AN, BIEN HOA, AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES, WITH NEITHER SIDE SUFFERING MAJOR CASUALTIES.

2. MR 3 HEADQUARTERS' SOURCES CLOSE TO MR 3 CG LTG NGUYEN VAN MINH ARE REJOICING OVER PRESIDENT NIXON' S DECISION TO SUSPEND BOTH THE AID TALKS IN PARIS AND THE REMOVAL OF THE MINES IN NORTH VIET- NAM. SEVERAL OF OUR SOURCES TOLD US THAT THIS MAY FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO BECOME MORE PLIABLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON IN PARIS AND IN THE TALKS HERE IN THE TPJMC FORUM. THEY TEND TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN " TOUGHNESS" IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE THAT THE COMMUNISTS UNDERSTAND, AND THAT THIS, COUPLED WITH A VIETNAMESE DETERMINATION NOT TO BUCKLE UNDER, WILL BRING PEACE TO ALL OF INDOCHINA.

3. THE ICCS REGION V (BIEN HOA) CHIEF INDODEL CONTINUES TO HAVE HIS MEN GO ON INVESTIGATIONS, DESPITE SAIGON INDODEL' S PROPOSALS CITED IN REFTEL.

4. ACCORDING TO ARVN 5 TH DIVISION SOURCES, THE VC/ NVA HAVE BEGUN STOPPING BUSES AND TRUCKS ON INSECURE ROADS IN NORTHERN MR 3 TO BUY GASOLINE AT INFLATED PRICES, UP TO TWICE THE MARKET PRICE. THE GASOLINE IS PROBABLY DESTINED FOR MOLOTOVA TRUCKS, A LARGE NUMBER OF WHICH ARE REPORTED TO BE IN NORTHERN MR 3.

5. THE BEN CAT ICCS TEAM HAS NOW COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO REGION AT LEAST FOUR INVESTIGATION REPORTS. ONLY ONE OF THESE, A TERRORIST BOMBING WHOSE ORIGIN WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE, WAS UNANIMOUS. IN ALL OTHER CASES, ACCORDING TO A BEN CAT ICCS SOURCE, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS HAVE BECOME EXPERT IN DREAMING UP SPURIOUS REASONS FOR NOT FINDING VC/ NVA VIOLATIONS.

6. THE CHIEF HUNGARIAN DELEGATE ON THE BEN CAT TEAM, A LIEUTENANT COLONEL, WAS REPLACED SUDDENLY LAST WEEK BY A SECOND LIEUTENANT. THE REASONS FOR THE TRANSFER ARE NOT KNOWN, BUT OTHER TEAM MEMBERS IMPLIED THAT IT WAS SOME SORT OF PUNISHMENT. LTC KRINISCH HAD NOT BEEN A MODEL OF COOPERATION, BUT HAD SOMETIMES SHOWN HIMSELF WILLING TO GO ON GRVN- SPONSORED TRIPS, AT LEAST BEFORE THE POLES ARRIVED. WALKINSHAW
UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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